

**Approved on April 12, 2011**

**Rockville Environment Commission  
Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, March 8, 2011  
At the Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue**

**Attendance**

**Commissioners:** John Becker, Steve Cardon, Julie Palakovich-Carr, Kris Dighe, Anne Goodman, Beri Kravitz, and David Zbarsky

**Absent:** Christine Davidson-McCord and Donna Vincent Roa

**Guests:** John Britton, City Councilmember

Mark Charles, City of Rockville Environmental Management

**Meeting Commencement**

The meeting convened at 7:30 pm by Chair Dighe

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the February 8, 2011 meeting were reviewed and Goodman moved and Kravitz seconded approval. The Commission approved the minutes 7-0-0.

**Commission Stream Clean Up**

Palakovich-Carr led a discussion of the need to conduct a stream clean up on the Maryvale Creek stream segment adopted by the Commission. An April 30 (9:30 am) date was tentatively set. Zbarsky will encourage high school students to participate.

**Environmental Education**

Palakovich-Carr led a discussion on environmental educational decisions by the State and County. The County is proposing to scale back or terminate outdoor education, including activities at the Smith Center (a savings of \$600,000). The Center is trying to rally 6<sup>th</sup> graders and program alumni to seek ongoing support. The Commission resolved to track progress and developments stemming from a series of upcoming public meetings.

**Historic Designation for Civic Center Park**

Goodman noted that the Historic Commission has nominated the 65-acre City Civic Center Park, including the Theatre, Mansion and Croydon Creek Nature Center as a historic property. There was a brief discussion about the significance of this designation and whether it might frustrate energy efficiency efforts or other modifications. The Commission decided to monitor this process as well.

**Environmental Excellence Award Nominee Evaluations**

The Commission received 5 award nominations to date. Three of these were tabled until more information becomes available. Three others were approved:

- Carl Henn Outstanding Individual Environmental Stewardship – Eileen Schempp (7-0-0)
- Outstanding Leadership in Environmental Practices – The Community Wildlife habitat Team: David Davis, Pete Givan, Amanda Rockler and Julie Super. (4-0-2)
- Outstanding Leadership in Environmental Practices – Cambridge Walk II Townhome Development (7-0-0)

These awards will be presented at the April 25, 2011 Mayor and Council meeting.

**Science Day Planning**

The Commission is planning on giving away insulators for electrical outlets. Planned demonstrations include the watershed models, a recycling petting zoo, electrical light bulb meters, and a working rain barrel. Preliminary staffing assignments are:

- 11:30 – 1:30          Cardon & Dighe
- 1:00 - 3:30          Palakovich-Carr & Goodman
- 3:00 – 5:30          Kravitz & Davidson-McCord (if available)

**Hometown Holidays Planning**

The Outreach Committee is still working on securing a corporate sponsor to pursue *Bill Nye the Science Guy*. Otherwise, Commission participation will be similar to Science Day. The Commission will also raffle off a rain barrel at the end of the day.

**Committee Reports**

**Watershed Protection**

- The Committee reviewed and commented on Environmental Management's progress in better management of fats, oils and grease (FOG) at City restaurants, the Cabin John Draft Watershed Assessment Study, the Rock Creek Watershed Assessment request for proposals (RFP), and the resident volunteer stream monitoring initiative.
- The Committee presented its goals and objects for calendar year 2011:
  - Conduct at least one stream clean up annually.
  - Recruit additional community members for the Committee.
  - Work with Environmental Management to complete the Cabin John Assessment.
  - Work with Environmental Management to develop the Rock Creek Assessment.
  - Recruit volunteers for the *adopt-a-stream* program.
  - Aid the watershed volunteer monitoring effort by recruiting volunteers, training these volunteers and participating in the monitoring events.
  - Assist Environmental Management with its resident rain barrel workshops.

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- The spring Earth Month activities were reviewed:
  - March 23 – Residential Green Energy Purchasing Workshop (17 attended)
  - April 3 – Volunteer Stream Monitoring I
  - April 9 – Spring Stream Clean up
  - April 10 – Science Day/Invasive Species Pull
  - April 16 – Volunteer Stream Monitoring II
  - April 25 – Mayor and Council Environmental Excellence Awards
  - April 30 – Spring Fest at Croydon Creek Nature Center
  - June 4 – Backyard Habitats Tour
- The next Watershed Committee meeting is March 22 at 7:15 pm.

**Sustainable Development and Energy**

- Due to the absence of Davidson McCord, there was no report. However, there was a brief committee meeting held which attracted three new members and included a discussion of the U.S. EPA Green Power Challenge.

**Outreach and Education**

- The two large tablecloths displaying the City's sustainability logo have been purchased are expected to be delivered prior to Science Day.
- The Committee is coordinating the Commission's participation at Science Day and Hometown Holidays (see above).
- Recycling magnets are still being pursued and will hopefully be available in time for Hometown Holidays.
- Entries for the Environmental Photo Contest will be posted on a Flickr account and made available for Commissioners to evaluate and score them shortly after April 1 (the submission deadline).
- Goals for 2011 include:
  - Creation of three canned PowerPoint presentations on various topics of interest, including recycling.
  - Develop and maintain a list of area environment and sustainability speakers.
  - Identify content improvements for the environment and sustainability pages of the City website.

**Environmental Management Report**

Mark Charles updated Commissioners on stormwater and plastic bag Bills in the Maryland Legislature; a date for the next Multi-City Meeting to be held April 6 in Gaithersburg; the City's participation in the Green Power Challenge; the Earth Day Proclamation at the March 28 Mayor and Council meeting; and the need to reschedule the November 8 Commission meeting due to a conflict with election-day activities.

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 pm by unanimous acclamation.

**Next Commission Meeting**

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, April 12, 2011 at 7:30 pm** at **Rockville's City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue**, Rockville, Maryland, 20850

**Follow Up/Action Items:**

None